

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/724,936

Examiner

Barbara J. Musser

Applicant(s)

WINKLER, MICHAEL E.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the interview dated 2/3/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 5/5/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 2/3/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William Collard on 2/3/06.

The application has been amended as follows: In the title, "and device" has been deleted.

The claims have been amended as indicated below.

1. (Previously Presented) A method for producing tapes in pairs for a final set of manufactured closing tapes on baby diapers comprising the following steps:

a) separating a web of material into at least four strips wherein at least two of said strips are formed as planar support tapes and at least two of said strips are formed as release tapes;

b) guiding said at least two release tapes separate from said at least two support tapes over a plurality of reversing stations;

c) laminating in a direction of transport a set of closing tapes to said at least two support tapes, said set of closing tapes comprising male or female closing elements;

d) folding each of said at least two release tapes into a short leg and a long leg; and

e) applying said release tapes to said support tapes in the direction of transport whereby said short leg is glued to said support tape and whereby said long leg at least partly covers said closing tape that is applied to said support tape.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the step of separating into four strips further comprising comprises the step of separating said web of material into two outer strips and two inner strips, wherein said two outer strips are formed as said at least two support tapes and said two inner strips are said at least two release tapes.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein said step of guiding said at least two release tapes comprises guiding said at least two release tapes via at least

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two reversing rollers which are aligned transversely in relation to the direction of transport of said at least two support tapes and wherein said at least two reversing rollers are spaced apart at a distance and set so that said at least two support tapes and said at least two release tapes merge in said step of applying said release tapes.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of applying an adhesive to said web of material before said step of separating said web of material.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein said web of material comprises a coating of silicone on an underside layer.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 3, further comprising the step of synchronously driving said at least two reversing rollers wherein a rotational speed of at least one of said reversing rollers is controlled, and wherein said web of material is ~~tensioned~~ between said at least two reversing rollers is tensioned by said controlled speed.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 6, wherein said set of closing tapes and said at least two release tapes are applied to a section of said at least two support tapes resting in the direction of transport against a periphery of a first reversing roll of a pair of reversing rolls acting on the support tapes.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of scoring said web of material, so that said step of folding said at least two release tapes includes folding said at least two release tapes along said scoring lines.

9.-16. (Canceled).

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest a method of forming tapes in pairs wherein a web is separated into four strips, two of the strips are reversed, folded into a short leg and a long leg, and applied to the remaining two strips to which closing tapes were applied. While Dilnik et al., Guenther et al., and Fries et al. all disclose forming the side panel/tape sections of a diaper, none of them disclose separating the web into four

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strips, two of which are reversed, folded and reapplied to the remaining two strips which have closure elements on them.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara J. Musser whose telephone number is (571) 272-1222. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday; alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571)-272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



BJM

**SAM CHUAN YAO
PRIMARY EXAMINER**